Patent No. 5,834,024, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/369,100 filed January 5, 1995, now abandoned.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all pending claims.

Please add new claims 80-90 as follows:

--80. A long lag pellet suitable for use in a once-a-day diltiazem formulation comprising:

1) a core comprising an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, the core being substantially free of organic acid;

2) where the long lag pellet substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37° C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

a) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;

b) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;

c) 0-15% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;

d) 0-15% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours; and

e) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

81. A long lag pellet according to claim 80 where more than 51% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours.

82. A long lag pellet according to claim 80 where more than 14% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours.

83. A long lag pellet according to claim 80 where more than 90% of the diltiazem is released after 24 hours.

84. A long lag pellet suitable for use in a once-a-day diltiazem formulation for oral administration comprising:

1) a core comprising an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, the core being substantially free of organic acid;

2) where the long lag pellet substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37° C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

a) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;

b) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;

c) 0-15% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;

d) 0-15% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours;

e) 14-51% of the diltiazem is released after 14 hours;

f) 51-86% of the diltiazem is released after 16 hours; and

g) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

85. The formulation according to claims 80 through 84 where the formulation contains at least the following: gelatin, methacrylic acid copolymers, propylene glycol, sugar and talc.

86. The formulation according to claims 80 through 84 where the formulation contains at least the following: acetyltributyl citrate, ethylcellulose, gelatin, magnesium stearate, methacrylic acid copolymers, propylene glycol, starch, sugar, and talc.

87. A long lag pellet suitable for use in a once-a-day diltiazem formulation for oral administration where:

1) the formulation contains at least:

a) gelatin;

b) methacrylic acid copolymers;

c) propylene glycol;

d) sugar; and

e) talc;

2) the long lag pellet has a core comprising an effective amount of diltiazem hydrochloride, the core being substantially free of organic acid, and substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37° C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

a) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released at 2 hours;

b) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;

c) 0-15% of the diltizazem is released after 6 hours;

4) 0-15% of the diltazem is released after 8 hours;

5) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

88. The formulation according to claim 87 where the formulation additionally contains at least:

6) acetyltributyl citrate;

7) ethylcellulose;

8) magnesium stearate; and

9) starch

89. A once-a-day diltiazem formulation for oral administration comprising a mixture of two types of pellets, where one type of pellet comprises:

1) a core comprising an effective amount of diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, the core being substantially free of organic acid;

2) and substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37° C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

a) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;

b) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 4 hours;

c) 0-15% of the diltiazem is released after 6 hours;

d) 0-15% of the diltiazem is released after 8 hours; and

e) more than 60% of the diltiazem is released after 18 hours.

90. A once-a-day diltiazem formulation for oral administration comprising a mixture of two types of pellets, where

1) one type of pellet releases diltiazem into the bloodstream of a human being soon after administration; and

2) the other type of pellet releases diltiazem into the bloodstream of a human being after a delay of approximately over six hours and substantially exhibits the following dissolution profile when measured according to U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII in a type 2 dissolution apparatus at 37° C in 0.1N HCl at 100 rpm:

a) 0-10% of the diltiazem is released after 2 hours;